

CHARLES FISHER HOUSE

51 N. COURT STREET

Although the c. 1880 Fisher House breaks a lot of rules and has a substantial list of "nots" (it is not particularly old, it does not contain 3 or 5 bays, etc.), the place is, without doubt, an integral and basic part of the Court House Square in Westminster. The principal facade, on its low fieldstone foundation, is covered, as is the entire building, with white aluminum siding. This facade stretches four bays long along Court Place at the easterly end of Willis Street. The entrance door is the second (from the south) bay. It is a modern, neo-Georgian, six-panel, bright yellow door and rests below a narrow three-light transom. Plain unfluted pilasters flank the door and support a pediment which is flush with the wall. The three other ground floor bays are one-over-one, double-hung sash windows with white wooden sills and small simple enframements between black louvered shutters. Four upstairs windows have 6/6 panes and are similarly treated. In the center of the facade, breaking the black, rolled-tin roof, is a small, simple, Gothic-peak, dormer window to light the attic, consisting of 2 small four-light windows within an imbricated shingled field.

The early history of the lot now filled by the Fisher House, as well as by the old, soon-to-be-altered-County Office Building is mystery-shrouded. Nevertheless, there seems clear evidence that, in 1876, the lot was the scene of machine shops, blacksmith shops, and so on which were labelled as being owned by the Taylor Manufacturing Company, and which gave the home "Foundary House" to the alley at the rear of the property, now called "Ralph Street Extended."

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Charles Fisher House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

51 N. Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles O. Fisher, Sr.

Telephone #: 848-5848

STREET & NUMBER

51 N. Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 205

Folio #: 538

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although the Fisher House breaks a lot of rules and has a substantial list of "nots" (it is not particularly old, it does not contain 3 or 5 bays, etc.), the place is, without doubt, an integral and basic part of the Court House Square in Westminster. The principal facade, on its low fieldstone foundation, is covered, as is the entire building, with white aluminum siding. This facade stretches four bays long along Court Place at the easterly end of Willis Street. The entrance door is the second (from the south) bay. It is a modern, neo-Georgian, six-panel, bright yellow door and rests below a narrow three-light transom. Plain unfluted pilasters flank the door and support a pediment which is flush with the wall. The three other ground floor bays are one-over-one, double-hung sash windows with white wooden sills and small simple enframements between black louvered shutters. Four upstairs windows have 6/6 panes and are similarly treated. In the center of the facade, breaking the black, rolled-tin roof, is a small, simple, Gothic-peak, donner window to light the attic, consisting of 2 small four-light windows within an imbricated shingled field.

The north facade fronting the old County Office Building (soon-to-be-altered to make way for the Court House Annex) shows the house's 2-part structure. This main piece has two 1/1 windows on the ground floor and one 1/1 window to the west on the second floor; it however, is shutterless, but was a glass and aluminum storm window, as do all the others. A very simple molded cornice runs along the roof's eaves. The rear section is shaded by a 2-tier side porch in good Westminster fashion. The porch is supported by slender turned columns; a simple banister runs between the columns. The porch is approached from the house by a centrally-placed glass and aluminum storm door; to its east is a 1/1 window. The south side of the house, while originally plain in appearance, has one addition right off of it to the south. The original section simply had one 1/1 window regularly placed on each of the 2 floors of the principal section. These remained, until the 1960's, when the facade was given interest by a more or less square-planned, one-story, gable-roofed addition. This wing has two 8/8 windows to the west, a large exterior corbel-capped brick chimney to the south, and French doors leading to a terrace to the east. Besides this corbel-capped chimney, two other corbel-capped chimneys create the houses skyline; chimneys are placed to the east of the rear L, at the gable's peak, and towards the south of the principal section near the center, a few feet to the east of the roof's peak of the principal section.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As noted in the long-answered question 7, the Fisher House is not particularly venerable, if venerability is a function strictly of age. However, the house is very important to Westminster for its familiar associations, and for its key role in the texture of Court House Square.

The early history of the lot now filled by the Fisher House, as well as by the old, soon-to-be-altered-County Office Building is mystery-shrouded. Nevertheless, there seems clear evidence that, in 1876, the lot was the scene of machine shops, blacksmith shops, and so on which were labelled as being owned by the Taylor Manufacturing Company, and which gave the home "Foundary House" to the alley at the rear of the property, now called "Ralph Street Extended." But there is no record of the Company's ever having owned the lot; on the contrary, in early times, it was owned by the Raymond family, and then after Caroline Raymond sold to C. D. Roberts on October 6, 1864 (Carroll County Deed Book 31, Page 261) it stayed in the Roberts family another forty years. The 1886 City Directory, curiously, lists one Henry W. Nolen as living at the house next in numerical order to the Kuhn House (MHT No. 468), which would place it here, or very near, the present Fisher House. On June 24, 1905, John W. Roberts et al sold the lot for \$920.00 to George Washington Albaugh Real Estate and Brokerage Company (102/70), which sold to Grover C. Taylor (now the Taylors are mentioned) on April 12, 1919 (134/113). It was Taylor who sold to Charles N. Fisher and Marie T. Fisher, his wife, on February 1, 1923 (141/277). Marie T. Fisher, widow, sold the place to her son, the present owner, Charles O. Fisher, on July 22, 1950.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the lot at the north-eastern corner of Court Square in Westminster running approximately 63' along Court Street extending back to Ralph Street ext. about 207 feet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

August, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



CARR 469

51 N. Court St.

Westminster

W. Jacobs

in C. Weeks

67%



67%

J-10

CARR 469

51 N. Court Street
Watkins

5/77 C. Weck
SW Jacobs